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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 DJIBOUTI 000825

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: EACTI: PRIORITIZATION OF DJIBOUTI CT PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 112122

Classified By: AMBASSADOR MARGUERITA D. RAGSDALE
FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

1. (C) In response to reftel, Embassy Djibouti sections and agencies reviewed East Africa Counter-Terrorism Initiative (EACTI) objectives and supporting programs. Embassy provides the following list of objectives and supporting programs in order of priority:

a. (C) EACTI objective - Limit Freedom of Movement to Transnational Terrorists.

(i) (C) Coastal Security. Given that al-Qaida and other terrorists are transiting the Red Sea to the Horn of Africa and beyond, we propose developing a coastal security program for Djibouti that will bolster its capacity to deny terrorists freedom of movement in the littoral waters surrounding Djibouti. This program will include capacity building for surveillance and interdiction of maritime traffic in the region. Program source - Foreign Military Financing.

(ii) (C) Terrorist Interdiction Program (TIP). TIP assists the Government of Djibouti (GODJ) in securing its borders by limiting terrorists' capabilities to cross international boundaries to stage terrorist attacks and escape undetected. Through a series of networked computers and peripherals installed at airport entry and departure points, transit lounges and key sea and land border points, the TIP will bolster Djibouti's ability to identify arriving or transiting passengers suspected of having terrorist connections. Additionally, it will allow the GODJ to determine quickly who may be hastily leaving the country after an incident.

(iii) (C) Safe Skies For Africa (SSFA). The SSFA program seeks to improve sub-Saharan aviation infrastructure by targeting the now seven selected "hub" countries for advanced technical assistance in meeting the international aviation safety and security standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Djibouti has regular flights coming from and going to Hargeisa, Yemen, Dubai, Addis Ababa, Asmara and Paris. Djibouti's airport currently primarily serves military uses, but would like to expand its passenger travel. New economic ventures, such as the Doraleh Port, may lead to an increase in passengers and freight. If Djibouti's air freight and passenger services do not meet current safety standards, it could deter incoming investors. Increased training and security equipment at the airport can benefit Djibouti's economic performance at the same time that it ensures that all routes into Djibouti are secured and safe.

(iv) (S) Border Security. Djibouti shares a border with Somalia. This same border is only 12 kms from the only U.S. military base in Africa. It is critical to Djiboutian and U.S. interests to improve the ability of Djibouti to monitor and patrol its frontiers. Recent intelligence reports indicate al-Qaida is operating along the Djibouti-Somalia border, portending critical implications for U.S. force protection. Proposed program would include training as well as transportation and communications equipment. Program source - Foreign Military Financing.

(v) (C) Anti-Terrorism Training Assistance (ATA). The ATA program is focused on enhancing the policing skills of GODJ security services to prevent or combat a terrorist action. Through a series of training programs geared specifically at countering terrorism, the ATA program increases a country's ability to defend itself against terrorism while providing greater security for U.S. personnel. Special courses in airport and border security bolster the GODJ's ability to control its borders and enforce immigration law.

b. (U) EACTI Objective - Counter Extremist Influence.

(i) (U) Public Diplomacy Program. Public diplomacy program activities influence Djiboutian, French and regional public opinion and decision-making consistent with U.S. national interests. Increased interaction between the American and Djiboutian communities fosters goodwill and provides a venue for promoting programs and values that counter extremist influences. Encouraging and framing Djibouti's success as a Muslim, Somali-speaking, American ally is key to the success of EACTI as well as our overall Mission Plan. This takes many forms including distribution of books and other written

materials supporting EACTI goals, increased person-to-person and cross-cultural interaction and television and radio broadcasts.

(ii) (U) Self-Help. The Self-Help program's goal is to encourage communities to better their own situation, while improving the U.S. relationship with host country nationals. Self-Help is one of the most visible and direct forms of U.S. assistance. Embassy Djibouti has had more than 30 successful community development projects over the past two years. These projects go beyond giving financial assistance to the government. They provide local communities with activities for children, places to study and tutor, vocational training, better resources for farming and greater access to water. The inaugurations of successful projects and programs have great impact on the hearts and minds of Djiboutians, more so than grants to the government.

(iii) (U) Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF). The DHRF is an annual allotment from USAID that gives Posts the ability to fund small, short-term projects proposed by the government and private secret groups to promote human rights, good governance, political pluralism and democracy. The funds have been especially useful in Djibouti for promoting awareness in the public sector and government awareness of human rights. DHRF funds have also been vital in past legislative elections and in encouraging rights of the child.

(iv) (C) Voice of America (VOA). Radio and television broadcasts are the most effective means of reaching a mass audience in this largely illiterate country. They further American values and goals consistent with EACTI and the Mission Performance Plan. In addition to their shared culture, Djibouti's close proximity to Somalia, southern Ethiopia, Sudan and Yemen makes it a natural launching point for programs that will reach across the borders of this small state. For example, our current VOA feeds are in English (VOA) and Arabic (Radio Sawaa) and cover an arc from Sudan to Saudi Arabia.

c. (C) EACTI Objective - Enhance Regional Counter-Terrorism and Law Enforcement Capabilities.

(i) (U) International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). Although ILEA is designed to address international crime, its focus on developing mid-level management for law enforcement and other criminal justice officials, is critical to the overall ability of the GODJ police force to prevent or counter a terrorist act. The ability of the host nation to deploy an effective and professional police force is detrimental to countering terrorism in a region ripe with political instability and deteriorating communities.

(ii) (U) The ATA program complements ILEA by providing specialized training in fields to which the GODJ would not normally be exposed. Courses in post-blast investigation, senior crisis management, VIP protection and officer survival are just some of the courses that have helped bring the GODJ security services into a new era of law enforcement.

(iii) (U) International Military Education and Training (IMET). The IMET program serves to professionalize the Djiboutian military, expose Djiboutian officers to the United States and make the Djiboutian military more interoperable with the U.S. military.

(iv) (U) Counter-Terrorism Fellowship. This additional funding for education and training is very useful to continue the professionalization of the Djiboutian military and expose senior military and civilian leaders to U.S. strategic thinking in relation to the GWOT.

12. (U) Post is aware that future funding of all programs will be reflective of the national interest as it evolves. However, given Djibouti's strategic location, key role in regional stability and high level of support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism, we believe most programs in Djibouti should be maintained at current funding levels.

13. (U) Shortfalls and Additional Requirements.

a. (C) Coastal Security. Current FMF funding will allow the Djiboutian Coast Guard to procure boats for coastal patrol, interdiction and boarding operations. Additionally, Djibouti will be able to construct small naval stations in the remote regions to ensure continual military presence in the littoral waters. However, Djibouti's coastal security program requires radar to be effective. Current FMF funding is not adequate to procure the necessary radar.

b. (C) Somali Language Broadcasts. Somalia is a known harbor for extremists. We believe that increasing our Somali language output, especially through VOA, would be an effective means of reaching an important target population. VOA currently lacks the transmitter to reach Somalia, although the current station is amenable to and appropriately

placed for such an addition. A Somali language feed need not represent a change in policy as Djibouti is largely Somaliphone and would be a consumer of said products; therefore, such a feed would not qualify as direct engagement. That said, the Department of State currently produces few, if any, Somali language products.

c. (C) The training programs designed for the GODJ, as implemented through ATA and ILEA, are without a doubt one of the best dollar-for-dollar investments the U.S. Government (USG) has in countering terrorism in the Horn of Africa. Unfortunately, training is only a portion of what the Djiboutian security services require to maintain a professional police force. The skills acquired through USG training can only go so far without the use of proper equipment. The GODJ suffers from a depleted economy and is unable to procure adequate equipment for the security services. Items such as handcuffs, radios, ballistic vests, riot batons, shields, helmets, ammunition for training and many other basic tools of the trade in their inventory are either obsolete or non existent. The GODJ Security Services are in dire need of physical resources that are commensurate with the level of training received. It would be in the best interest of the USG's counter terrorism program to provide either the actual resources or a monetary grant to procure essential equipment.

RAGSDALE